Funds allocated for rain water harvesting in Karnataka

762. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details about popularization of rain water harvesting schemes in the country;

(b) the amount so far spent during the last two years on rain water harvesting; and

(c) the details of amount, if any, allotted to the State of Karnataka for popularization of rain water harvesting during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has taken the following steps to popularize rain water harvesting in the country:

(i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country during the IX Five Year Plan at a cost of Rs. 23.48 crore.
(ii) Circulation of Manual and Guide on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water incorporating various modern techniques of rain water harvesting to the States/Union Territories, for adoption.
(iii) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.
(iv) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwbindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.
(v) Providing technical guidance to individuals/organization/ industries to adopt efficient recharge system throughout the country.

(b) and (c) The Central Ground Water Board has implemented a Central Sector Scheme on 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water' during the IX Five Year Plan at a cost of Rs. 23.48 crore. A total number of 155 projects at a cost of Rs. 20.23 crore were taken up during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. Out of the above, 2 projects at a cost of Rs. 28.75 lakh were taken up in Karnataka. These projects are at various stages of implementation. An

amount of Rs. 16.25 lakh was spent during these two years for organizing training and mass awareness programmes in the country. Out of this, Rs. 60,000/- was spent in Karnataka.

MNC's right over water

†763. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Multi National Companies are acquiring the rights over water instead of that of the community;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government and other State Governments are also contemplating to privatize this sector;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The rights over water are not being given to Multi National Companies. The National Water Policy envisages inolvement of stakeholders, Non-Governmental Organisations and the private sector in planning, development and management of water sources. As laid down in the policy, the water supply and sewerage services in some of the mega cities are being contemplated by some of the State Governments to be given to the Corporate Sector on lease basis for management and improvement of service efficiency.

Creation of Grid System

764. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the comprehensive New National Water Policy proposed for creation of a grid system for major rivers to tackle frequent drought and floods in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy 2002 provides that water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.